



Monmouthshire County Council.

Education Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

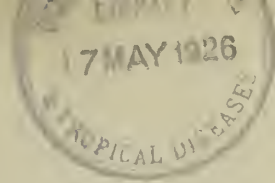
Monmouthshire Education Committee.

Public Health Department,

County Hall,

Newport, Mon.

*With the Compliments
of the
School Medical Officer.*



Monmouthshire Education Committee

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Annual Report for 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Annual Report upon the Medical Inspection of School Children under your jurisdiction for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

The Report is arranged upon the lines suggested by the Medical Department of the Board of Education, in the circular letter issued in December, 1920, and Schedule to Form 6M., dated 30th November, 1925. The statistical tables contained in the Appendix have been compiled in accordance with the Board's request in the latter circular.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

POPULATION, ETC.

Area of the County of Monmouth (excluding autonomous areas of Abertillery, Ebbw Vale and Newport):—331,696 acres.

Estimated population at 31st December, 1925 (excluding autonomous areas)—298,850.

Number of Schools 195, with 286 departments.

Average number of children on registers of Elementary Schools at 31st December, 1925—53,627.

School accommodation, 31st December, 1925 :—60,112.

1. MEDICAL INSPECTION STAFF.

The County Medical Officer is also School Medical Officer. There are ten Assistant Medical Officers, viz. :—

Henry W. Catto, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., County Bacteriologist and Pathologist, and Deputy County Medical Officer.

Mary Scott, M.B., Ch.B.
 Winifred Austin, B.A., M.B., B.S.
 Evan W. Griffith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
 Philomene R. Whitaker, M.B., B.S.
 Sidney R. E. Davies, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 Margaret M. Proudfoot, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Gladys Russell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Mary H. M. Gordon, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Robert Lockhart, (M.C.), M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dr R. Lockhart commenced duties on the 9th July, 1925, in place of Dr. H. Ellis, who left on the 17th April, 1925.

Three School Dentists are engaged, viz. :—

C. J. Hurry Riches, L.D.S., R.C.S. (part time).
 H. W. Wallis, L.D.S. (whole time).
 Edith A. Gower, L.D.S., R.C.S. (whole time).

The services of the following Specialists have been engaged by the Education Committee:—

R. J. Coulter, M.B., F.R.C.S.	Special Refraction and Ophthalmic work.
J. A. Lee, M.B., F.R.C.S.	Nose and Throat treatment.
J. McGinn, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.	X-Ray treatment of Ringworm.

There are twenty-nine health visitors devoting their time to School Medical Inspection work, in conjunction with Maternity and Child Welfare work, and one engaged jointly with the work of these two sections, and upon inquiry work for the County Mental Deficiency Committee. The Lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee also gives one or two days a week to School Medical Inspection work.

2. CO-ORDINATION.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

The Co-ordination of the School Medical and the Maternity and Child Welfare services was inaugurated in the year 1920, and has been continued during the year under review. The Assistant Medical Officers undertake the supervision of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in addition to the medical inspection and treatment of school children.

The twenty-nine health visitors have been allotted districts, in which they reside, and they are responsible for home visiting of infants from birth to five years of age under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, and of children of school age under the scheme of Medical Inspection. They also assist at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and School Clinics.

Several of the Health Visitors also help at Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

(b) Nursery Schools.

No Nursery Schools have been established in the Administrative County.

(c) Care of Debilitated Children.

The majority of debilitated children under school age are seen at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and the parents of such children are strongly urged to continue attendance at the Centres, where facilities for the supply of Virol, Roboleine, Malt and Oil, and similar preparations are supplied at a reduced price.

Debilitated children of school age come to the notice of the Medical Inspectors during school inspection and are examined at the schools, or, if attendance is impossible, they are seen at their homes.

It will be seen therefore, that observation is kept upon the child from birth to the school leaving age.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

3. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Much prominence is given nowadays to the sanitary state of the school, which exercises a considerable influence upon the child.

Apart from the danger to health resulting from insanitation, uncleanness, defective lighting and faulty ventilation, it is obvious that the model teaching of health matters should take place in a model environment.

With this end in view the Assistant Medical Officers, during their routine visits to the schools, made a special survey of the sanitary conditions. The following is a summary of their reports.

The number of school buildings inspected was 148:—

Environment	Satisfactory ... 146			
	Unsatisfactory Conditions:—			
	High bank all along front of school used as refuse heap	...	1	
	Boundary wall too near school at back and interfering with light	... ..	1	
Type of Building.	The type of building chiefly adopted is stone built with slate roof. There are also in use buildings of brick, slate roofed. In two or three districts, pending the erection of new premises, some of the departments are accommodated in galvanised iron buildings. The later designed schools are built on the corridor and central hall system, and are substantial, commodious, airy and well lighted.			
Sanitation.	Satisfactory ... 143			
	Unsatisfactory Conditions:—			
	Sewage emptied on patch adjoining school premises	1	Sewage runs into brook	1
	Sewage removed during school hours	... 1	Privies not emptied enough	1
			Absence of Urinal	... 1
Sanitary Conveniences	Satisfactory 111			
	Unsatisfactory Conditions:—			
	Unsatisfactory pull-chains	1	No wash down to Urinal	2
	Smell of Cesspit	... .. 2	Flushing not frequent enough	... 3
	No water laid on	... 3	Require limewashing	... 10
	Six W.C's. for 276 scholars	1	W.C's. not very clean	... 6
	Privies need cleaning out	5		
	Floor of Urinal requires attention	... .. 1		
	Defective wash down to Urinal	... .. 3		
Lighting.	Natural.	Satisfactory ... 141		
		Windows unsatisfactory 7		
	Artificial.	Satisfactory ... 145		
		Poor	... .. 1	
		None	... .. 2	
Water Supply.	Satisfactory ... 141			
	Scanty in hot weather	... 1	No water supply	... 5
			No cover to storage tank	1
Heating.	Satisfactory ... 141 Inadequate 7			

Lavatories.	Satisfactory	...	116	No drinking mugs	...	7
	Washbasins not satisfactory		13	No rollers for towels	...	1
	Not kept clean	...	3	No satisfactory washing		
	Leaky cistern pipe	...	1	arrangements	...	1
	Insufficient washbasins	...	5			
	Taps off washbasins	...	1			
Cloak Rooms	Satisfactory	...	133	Pegs inadequate	...	9
	Damp	...	2	Light might be improved		4
Ventilation.	Satisfactory	...	139	Windows inadequate	...	1
	Not satisfactory	...	3	Lack of sufficient ventilation		1
	No window cords	...	2	More windows ought to be		
	Not satisfactory in corru- gated hut	...	1	made to open	...	1
Desks.	Satisfactory	...	142	One room long type	...	2
	In one classroom obsolete		3	Do. triple pattern	...	1
Cleanliness of Premises.	Satisfactory	...	147			
	Not clean	...	1			
Playground.	Satisfactory	...	128			
	Accommodation insufficient		2			
	Needs repair	...	18			
Miscell- aneous Defects.	Leak in roof	...	2	Wall source of danger	...	1
	Walls show bulging and angling, large cracks		1	Sinking in several parts in playground causing cracks		
	Loose tiles on lavatory roof		1	between wall and ceiling		1
	Walls very damp	...	2	Ceiling broken in classrooms		1
	Whole school requires reno- vating	...	1	Walls need cleaning and Plastering	...	1

The conditions found to be unsatisfactory were notified to the County Sites and Buildings Committee, which ordered the remedying of the defects.

The Board of Education in the Circular 6 M., issued in November, 1925, suggest that in the review of the hygienic conditions of schools note should be made of the arrangements for (i) the warming up of meals brought to school by the children (ii) the supervision of children during the meals, and (iii) the service of meals.

The Assistant Medical Officers have been requested to observe these arrangements and the result of their observations will be included in next year's report.

The report of the County Education Architect is as follows:—

“ It may again be stated that the condition of the schools of the County is fairly satisfactory. All sanitary defects are remedied immediately they come to light. No new Elementary schools were erected during the year 1925, but the new Secondary school at Rhymney was opened. Work upon the new Infants' schools at Cwmearn, Twm-path (Pontypool) and Argoed, the new Elementary school at Ynysddu and the new Secondary school at Pontllanfraith is progressing favourably, and it is hoped that the premises will be opened soon after the summer holidays.”

4. MEDICAL INSPECTION.

(a) *Scheme of Inspection.*

The Board of Education's schedule of medical inspection was followed during the year, viz.:—

- (i) All children on their first admission to Public Elementary Schools.
- (ii) All children on their attaining the age of eight years.
- (iii) All children on their attaining the age of twelve years.
- (iv) Special cases.
- (v) Re-examination of children found at previous inspections to have defects requiring attention.
- (vi) Examination of all mentally and physically defective children.
- (vii) Examination of children irregular in attendance at school (Attendance Officers' cases).
- (viii) Re-examination at school of children for whom spectacles have been prescribed at the School Clinic.

In addition special examinations were made of school children who had met with accidents upon school premises.

(b) *Steps taken to secure the early ascertainment of crippling defects.*

The Medical Officers in charge of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres notify the County Medical Officer of all children under five years of age suffering from crippling defects who are seen at the Clinics. The Health Visitors urge the mothers of any such children who may come to their notice to take the infants to the Centres.

All parents are given an opportunity of having the children examined by the Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon with a view to early treatment of suitable cases at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital under the County scheme.

(c) Disturbance of School arrangements.

At schools where there are Head Teachers' rooms there is practically no disturbance of school arrangements. At the majority of the schools a classroom is freed for the use of the medical inspector, the scholars being placed with another class for the time being. At single-roomed schools there must of course be some slight interference with the work during medical inspections.

5. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

During the year a total of 13,501 children were examined at routine inspections. Of this number there were actually 1,384, or 10·2 per cent., children who were, at time of examination, physically fit,—boys 775, or 11·2 per cent., and girls 609, or 9·2 per cent.

A high standard has been fixed in classifying the children physically fit. A child found to have one carious tooth has been considered physically defective.

The number of special cases examined was 1,647.

Re-examinations were carried out in 7,872 cases.

The number of individual children inspected was 23,138, including 118 children specially examined owing to accidents upon school premises.

In addition the School Dentists examined 23,787 children.

Complete totals are given in the appended statistical tables.

(a) UNCLEANLINESS.

Clothing and Footgear at Routine Medical Inspections.

Year.	Unclean. Per Cent.	Ragged. Per Cent.	Excessive. Per Cent.	Insufficient. Per Cent.	Bad Footgear. Per Cent.
1911.	5·8	·4	·29	·09	·6
1912.	2·7	·5	·3	·05	·9
1913.	2·8	·6	·4	·04	·1
1914.	2·8	·4	·3	·04	·9
1920.	·97	·3	·19	·05	·89
1921.	·42	·17	·07	·13	1·1
1922.	·30	·32	·13	·31	1·1
1923.	·38	·43	·05	·15	·98
1924.	·14	·25	·03	·14	·80
1925.	·13	·19	·09	·05	·51

Dirty and Verminous Children.

The dirty and verminous children discovered at routine inspections are here tabulated for facility of comparison.

	HEAD.		BODY.	
	Nits. Per Cent.	Dirty. Per Cent.	Dirty. Per Cent.	Pulices. Per Cent.
Entrants—Boys	1.9	.17	1.7	2.1
„ Girls	14.8	.18	.85	3.4
8—9 yrs.—Boys	1.2	.24	1.6	2.8
„ Girls	19.9	.15	.93	5.4
Leavers—Boys	.79	.34	1.2	2.9
„ Girls	16.3	.20	.70	3.5

Practically all the figures this year show a big improvement when compared with the immediately preceding years.

A more comprehensive survey of the cleanliness of school children is made by the Health Visitors. They paid an average of 1.6 visits to each school in the County during the year when they examined all the children in attendance. Re-visits were paid to the schools after each cleansing examination to inspect the children previously found to have defects. The average number of visits paid to the schools is considerably under the standard set by the Board of Education, but it is impossible to increase the number of visits to the schools without augmenting the number of Health Visitors.

Altogether 65,815 children were seen at the Cleansing Examinations, and 9,758 defects as regards uncleanness, etc., were found—14.8 per cent.

The chief defects are set out below and the figures for the two previous years are given for the purpose of comparison.

The number of individual children found unclean was 8,624.

Chief defects found.	1925.		1924.		1923.	
	No.	Per- centage	No.	Per- centage	No.	Per- centage
Nits of head (mild) ...	2356	3.5	2501	3.7	2,589	3.70
Do. (bad) ..	1171	1.7	1588	2.3	2,265	3.23
Body vermin ...	1087	1.6	1007	1.5	590	.8
Dirty body ...	989	1.5	898	1.3	804	1.1
Ragged and dirty clothing	908	1.3	787	1.1	739	1.0
Insufficient clothing ...	187	.2	143	.2	210	.3
Excessive Clothing ...	46	.06	37	.05	36	.05
Poor footgear ...	704	1.0	696	1.3	468	.6
Poor nutrition ...	134	.2	154	.2	80	.1
Skin diseases ...	636	.9	806	1.2	960	1.3
External eye diseases ...	171	.2	439	.6	450	.6
Otorrhoea ...	135	.2	391	.5	323	.4
Miscellaneous ...	1234	1.8	436	.6	470	.6
Total defects ...	9158	14.8	9,883	14.7	9,984	14.2

No. of children examined, 1925, 65,815; 1924, 67,083; 1923, 69,927.

It will be observed that the percentage of children found by the Medical Inspectors to have verminous heads and bodies is considerably higher than the number discovered by the Health Visitors. It is difficult to account for this unless it is due to the higher standard of cleanliness set by the Medical Inspectors. This is not an occasional difference, and steps are now being taken to adopt a uniform standard in both cases.

As the Health Visitors examined the greater number of children it will perhaps be better to take their figures for the purpose of ascertaining if there has been any improvement in the uncleanness of the school children during recent years.

The total number of defects of uncleanness found by the Health Visitors for the past three years shows little variation, 11·3 per cent. for 1925, 11·3 per cent. for 1924, and 11·0 per cent. for 1923. But the figures show a slight improvement upon the 12 preceding years, for which the average was 12·9. There has been a marked decrease of late years in the presence of nits and vermin in the children's heads, the average of 8·2 per cent. for a period of 12 years, having been reduced in 1925 to 5·2 per cent.

This improvement is borne out by the Medical Inspectors' figures.

There is, however, a slight increase in the number of dirty bodies.

Notwithstanding the serious industrial disturbance during the year in many of the districts, the percentage of children with poor footgear shows no change from the normal.

The parents were notified of the defects, and a re-examination of the children was made by the Health Visitors after a month's interval. 8,290 cases were re-examined, and 6,889 (83·1 per cent.) were found to have improved, and 1,401 (16·8 per cent.) to have not improved. The homes of the children who had shown no improvement were again visited, and instructions given to their parents or guardians in the methods of remedying the defect complained of. Further examinations were made of 6,324 children, and 3,203 (50·6 per cent.) were found to have improved by the time of this subsequent visit. 2,628 (41·5 per cent.) were undergoing treatment, and 493 (7·7 per cent.) showed no improvement, and no satisfactory promises of treatment were received from the parents or guardians. The homes of these children were again visited. In 1924, the figures were, further examined. 6,858; improved, 3,330 (48·5 per cent.); undergoing treatment, 2,943 (42·9 per cent.); no improvement, 585 (8·5 per cent.).

During the last few years there has been a decided increase in the number of children whose condition has been found to have improved between the time of the examination at school and the re-examination by the Health Visitors.

The percentage of these children in 1925 was 83·1 compared with an average for 12 years of 66 per cent.

The number of children in 1925 who showed no improvement after the third examination of the child and the second visit to the home was 8·5 per cent., against an average of 12·5 per cent., for the period of years.

These children are the incorrigibles, whose parents have defied all the efforts of the Health Visitors and, in many instances, of the Inspectors of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, to whom most of the children were referred.

The only procedure now remaining is for the Education Committee to institute prosecution proceedings against the parents.

There were no legal proceedings taken during the year 1925. Fifty-four cases of neglect were referred to the N.S.P.C.C.

(b) NUTRITION.

		1925.		1924.		1923.	
		Below normal.	Bad.	Below normal.	Bad.	Below normal.	Bad.
		Per Cent.		Per Cent.		Per Cent.	
Entrants	Boys	8·9	·8	8·1	·03	8·5	·02
	Girls	6·8	·7	5·8	—	6·2	·2
8—9 period,	Boys	12·6	1·1	13·7	·1	12·7	·3
	Girls	11·3	1·0	10·6	·08	10·3	—
Leavers	Boys	9·7	·8	11·3	·08	11·2	·1
	Girls	10·5	·9	13·2	·06	8·5	·1

The above table appears to show a larger proportion of badly nourished children as compared with the mean figure of the whole of England and Wales, but this is due to the fact that a definite high standard of classification was set following a conference of the School Medical Officer and his Assistants. Yet there can be no doubt that in the rural areas malnutrition is becoming more prevalent. This would appear to be accounted for by the difficulties in obtaining meat and especially fish. The number of cottagers who feed their own pigs and bake their own bread is comparatively few, and thus the chief source of protein and fat food on which the country child in the past relied on, is removed.

(c) MINOR AILMENTS.

Routine inspections disclosed minor ailments in 7·8 per cent. of the children examined. Details of the nature of the minor ailments are given in the statistical tables appended.

There is need for the establishment of Minor Ailments Clinics in the industrial townships of the County, but a scheme to provide these would entail additional medical and nursing staff.

(d) NOSE AND THROAT CONDITIONS DISCOVERED AT ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Nose and Throat conditions, discovered at the routine inspections are perhaps the most important of all, as by their persistence and their not being treated, other, and intrinsically far more serious conditions are liable to supervene.

The numbers per cent. are given where throat conditions were met with, tabulated as "Entrants," "8—9 years period," and "Leavers."

	No. Examined	Mouth Breathers	Enlarged Tonsils.		Adenoids		Tonsils and Adenoids	Conditions due to other causes
			Slightly	Much	Slight	Obstructive Adenoid Growth		
Boys—Entrants	2870	p.c. 1·7	p.c. 17·4	p.c. 3·8	p.c. 1·0	p.c. .06	p.c. 2·5	p.c. 2·6
Girls—Entrants	2700	1·3	15·0	3·5	·8	—	2·8	1·1
Boys—8-9 ...	2011	2·8	15·0	3·0	·7	04	3·3	1·7
Girls—8-9 ...	1919	2·7	19·4	5·6	1·1	·05	3·5	2·0
Boys—Leavers...	2009	1·7	14·8	2·8	·9	—	1·9	1·3
Girls—Leavers..	1992	1·6	16·9	4·2	·4	·10	2·6	4·5

From the foregoing tabulated list it will be seen that a considerable number of children had affections of the nose and throat prior to their entering upon school life. The number of children with enlargement of the tonsils appears to be on the increase. The treatment scheme would probably account for this as now all suitable cases for operation are notified, whereas in the past only very enlarged tonsils or urgent cases would be notified for Hospital treatment.

The following is a tabulation of the percentages of glandular conditions discovered at routine inspections. The condition, especially that of the submaxillary and anterior cervical glands, is closely allied with, or

secondary to tonsils and adenoids aetiologically, while the posterior cervical glandular enlargement is in many cases due to dirty, verminous or septic condition of the scalp.

		Submaxillary. Enlarged. Per Cent.	Anterior Cervical. Enlarged. Per Cent.	Posterior Cervical Enlarged. Per Cent.
Entrants,	Boys	1.4	.7	.6
	Girls	.8	.2	.3
8—9,	Boys	.9	.7	.5
	Girls	1.5	.4	.3
Leavers,	Boys	.5	.6	.04
	Girls	.5	.1	.2

(e) TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculous conditions were discovered in .08 per cent. of the children examined at routine inspections. .02 per cent. of the children inspected had pulmonary tuberculosis, and .05 per cent. had tuberculous disease of bones or joints.

.06 per cent. of children inspected were suspected of being affected with pulmonary tuberculosis.

Of non-tuberculous chest conditions, 6.0 per cent. of the children inspected had catarrhal conditions of the lungs, while .91 per cent. had chest trouble due to other causes.

These figures cannot be taken as a reliable incidence of tuberculosis in school children, as all children showing the least suspicion of the trouble are referred to the Tuberculosis Physicians. A statement of their findings is included later in this report.

(f) SKIN DISEASES.

Of the total children examined at routine inspections 3.8 per cent. were found to have skin disease, due to:—

	Per Cent.
Ringworm of the Scalp	... .. 1.4
Ringworm of the Body	... .. .05
Scabies	... .. 1.4
Impetigo	... .. .96
Skin Diseases from other causes	... .. 2.4

Full details of the “ other causes ” are in the table dealing with the subject.

70 hair specimens were examined for ringworm microscopically at the County Laboratory, 38 being returned as positive and 32 negative.

X-Ray treatment for Ringworm is always offered in those cases showing positive results.

(g) EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

Disease of the external eye was discovered in 2.2 per cent. of the children seen at routine inspection, viz.:—

	Per Cent.
Blepharitis	1.7
Conjunctivitis	.51
Corneal Opacities	.01
Keratitis	—

while other diseases accounted for .25 per cent. of external eye conditions in all children examined.

(h) DEFECTIVE VISION.

The children are normally examined as to their vision in the course of routine inspection in the two groups, eight years of age and 12 years of age respectively.

The “ Entrants ” are only examined as to vision with Snellen’s Type, where defect is evident or strongly suspected, or where a squint is evident.

For simplification, the results of routine examinations as regards defective vision, are tabulated. There is again this year a reduction in the number of cases.

Defective Vision.

Groups	No. of Children Examined	Only One Eye Defective				Cases where both Eyes were equally Defective		Cases of Unequal Error				Squint
		Right		Left				Right		Left		
		$\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{24}$	$\frac{6}{24}$ and less	$\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{24}$	$\frac{6}{24}$ and less	$\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{24}$	$\frac{6}{24}$ and less	$\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{24}$	$\frac{6}{24}$ and less	$\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{24}$	$\frac{6}{24}$ and less	
Entrants—Boys ...	2870	p.c. .06	p.c. ...	p.c. .03	p.c. ...	p.c. .20	p.c. .10	p.c. .03	p.c. ...	p.c. .03	p.c. ...	p.c. 1.2
„ Girls ...	2700	... ..	.03	.14	...	.33	.03	.07	...	.07	...	1.0
8-9—Boys ...	2011	2.3	.94	1.7	1.0	5.5	1.1	1.6	.09	1.4	1.1	.6
„ Girls ...	1919	2.5	.6	2.4	.8	7.7	2.1	2.3	.9	2.4	.8	.6
Leavers—Boys ...	2009	2.2	.12	2.2	.8	2.8	1.6	2.2	.9	1.8	1.3	.6
„ Girls ...	1992	1.8	1.0	2.5	1.0	4.3	1.3	1.8	.7	1.7	.8	.2

MYOPES.

The records of examinations of children at the Eye Clinics show that there are many children whose eyes are unfit to stand the strain of education in ordinary elementary schools. Some have to be excluded from school altogether, whilst others have to be taught orally.

The suitable method of dealing with these cases is by the establishment of "Myope Classes," to be held at the elementary schools, where the oral teaching and physical exercises given in the ordinary classes would be available for the children.

There are at the present time 102 children who would greatly benefit by instruction in Myope classes, but they are scattered throughout the County, and if classes were formed, rail or 'bus journeys would be necessary to obtain sufficient numbers to form a satisfactory class.

It is hoped that a scheme upon the above lines will be submitted to the Education Committee during the current year.

(i) EAR DISEASES.

The conditions discovered at routine inspection are given in percentages of numbers examined in each group. The percentage of defects is, on the whole, about the same as in the past few years.

		Number examined.	Otorrhoea. Per Cent.	Other Diseases. Per Cent.	Defective Hearing. Per Cent.
Entrants,	Boys	2870	1·5	·53	·59
	Girls	2700	·88	·18	·44
8—9 period,	Boys	2011	·79	·39	·69
	Girls	1919	1·40	·26	·62
Leavers,	Boys	2009	·94	·39	·49
	Girls	1992	1·45	·35	·75

(j) DEFECTIVE TEETH.

Apart from the inspections carried out by the School Dentist at the elementary schools, defective teeth were observed and noted during routine medical inspection.

The results are tabulated in percentages for numbers examined in each group.

		Number examined.	Number of defective teeth. under 4. 4 and over. Per Cent.		Dirty Teeth. Per Cent.
Entrants,	Boys	2870	41·2	23·5	1·8
	Girls	2700	42·9	20·5	1·2
8—9 period,	Boys	2011	45·8	23·3	2·4
	Girls	1919	46·3	24·9	1·9
Leavers,	Boys	2009	45·0	7·0	1·3
	Girls	1992	43·5	6·4	·6

The number of children examined by the School Dentists was 23,787. Details will be found in the appended statistical table IV., group IV. The number of children with dirty teeth has been decreasing during the past few years and this year there is a further diminution.

(k) CRIPPLING DEFECTS.

In the course of the routine inspections, 124 cases of deformities requiring treatment and 146 needing to be kept under observation, were discovered, an incidence of 9 per 1,000 of children inspected. The incidence for the whole of England and Wales in the year 1924 was 7 per 1,000. The County figure does not indicate the total number of crippled children, an estimate of which is given later in this report.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Head Teachers are provided with forms upon which they notify to the School Medical Officer and to the District Medical Officer of Health all cases of infectious disease which arise amongst their scholars. A health visitor, specially trained in infectious diseases, conducts any inquiries which may be necessary at the schools and homes.

The year 1924 being a mild one as far as cases of Measles and Whooping Cough were concerned, it was expected that these diseases would become epidemic in the year 1925, and this anticipation was realised.

Several virulent epidemics of diphtheria arose and special attention was paid in the swabbing of contacts in the affected schools and examination of the milk and water supplies of the district, with a view to tracing the cause of the outbreaks. Henllys School was particularly affected.

The new Regulations of the Board of Education in regard to school closure were followed immediately they came into force in the Spring of the year. As far as possible schools are now kept open during epidemics, and authority is given to Head Teachers whereby registers need not be marked when, through the prevalence of infectious disease amongst the scholars, the percentage of attendance for any week falls below 60 per cent.

The notifications received from Head Teachers were:—

Measles	...	...	4133	Ringworm	...	...	31
Whooping Cough	...	...	886	Scabies	...	...	12
Scarlet Fever	...	...	158	Impetigo	...	...	27
Chicken Pox	...	...	866	Eczema	...	...	20
Mumps	...	...	599	Influenza	...	...	53
Diphtheria	...	...	209	Other Diseases	...	...	159
German Measles	...	...	4				
						Total	7,157

During the year 3,351 swabs were taken by the School Medical Staff and examined for Diphtheria bacilli at the County Laboratory, 19 schools being involved. The examination of the swabs proved 98 positive and 3,253 negative results.

When Diphtheria bacillus was found in a swab, the parents of the child were notified and advised to call in a medical practitioner; the child was excluded from school and the Medical Officer of Health of the area in which the child resided was notified. The positive cases were re-swabbed until two consecutive negative results were obtained.

There were in addition 69 specimens of Urine, 23 Eye swabs, and one Ear swab from school children examined at the Laboratory.

It was found necessary to close 25 school departments on account of the prevalence of infectious and other diseases, as follows:—

Measles	...	...	...	9	Influenza	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	Chicken Pox	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	12					
									Total
									25

The majority of these closures took place before the receipt of the new regulations of the Board of Education.

Certificates of attendance below 60 per cent. were given to 49 departments on account of the prevalence of the following conditions:—

Measles	...	...	...	37	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	Chicken Pox	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	6	Influenza	...	...	...	1

Disinfection of school premises is undertaken by the staff of the Medical Inspection Department after every epidemic.

7. FOLLOWING UP DEFECTS DISCOVERED AT ROUTINE INSPECTION.

Re-examination of all children (whether of the routine inspection group or of the special examination group), found defective, is made by the Medical Inspectors.

Those children who were referred for re-examination on account of doubtful signs, are also seen again.

The following table gives the number of re-examinations made by Medical Inspectors and the result thereof:—

Condition	No. of defects for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated	Results of Treatment			No. of defects not treated	Percentage of defects treated
	Old Routine Cases.	Special Cases.	Total.			Remedied	Improved	No improvement		
Nutrition	983	565	1548	404	1144	275	380	489	...	73.8
Uncleanliness { Head	147	75	222	51	92	67	20	5	79	41.4
{ Body	65	56	121	25	58	47	9	2	38	47.9
Clothing { Dirty or Ragged	50	33	83	16	42	30	12	...	25	50.6
{ Excessive	8	9	17	1	15	13	1	1	1	88.2
{ Insufficient	19	9	28	2	18	17	...	1	8	64.1
Poor Footgear	80	28	108	18	77	67	7	3	13	71.4
Skin { Ringworm { Head	45	38	83	19	64	49	6	9	...	77.1
	14	18	32	4	28	20	4	4	...	87.5
	92	81	173	35	136	105	13	18	2	78.6
{ Other Infectious Skin	159	93	252	62	187	107	35	45	3	74.2
{ " Skin Diseases	1050	527	1577	466	831	374	161	296	280	52.6
Eye { Vision and Squint	268	196	464	108	355	162	51	142	1	76.5
{ External Eye diseases	140	80	220	52	167	81	20	66	1	75.9
Ear { Otorrhoea	80	55	135	34	101	29	24	48	...	74.8
{ Defective Hearing	23	20	43	13	24	11	7	6	6	55.8
{ Wax	1705	566	2271	501	1425	344	318	763	345	62.3
Nose and Throat { Enlarged Tonsils	211	92	303	85	195	85	44	66	23	64.3
{ Adenoids	449	131	580	115	325	103	65	157	140	56.0
{ Tonsils & Adenoids	519	215	734	171	563	206	130	227	...	78.7
{ Other Diseases	355	170	525	141	384	153	86	145	...	73.1
Enlarged Glands	104	64	168	43	125	24	65	46	...	74.4
Defective Speech	1536	552	2088	508	1091	468	479	144	489	52.2
Teeth	474	211	685	219	465	75	84	307	...	67.8
Heart and { Heart Disease	404	240	644	174	470	98	146	226	...	72.9
Circulation { Anæmia	96	43	139	25	114	50	18	46	...	82.0
Lungs { Bronchitis	271	108	379	88	291	151	44	96	...	76.7
{ Bronchial Catarrh	8	11	19	14	5	...	1	4	...	26.3
Tuberculosis { Definite	43	86	129	66	63	17	26	20	...	48.8
{ Suspected	20	53	73	38	35	9	7	19	...	47.9
{ Other Forms	18	17	35	9	26	3	8	15	...	74.2
Nervous System { Epilepsy	23	23	46	13	33	20	3	10	...	71.7
{ Chorea	33	39	72	16	56	31	12	13	...	77.7
{ Other Forms	114	182	296	82	214	7	44	163	...	72.2
Deformities	563	436	999	326	644	234	119	291	29	64.4
Other Diseases or Defects										
Totals	10169	5122	15291	4244	9864	3532	2439	3893	1483	64.5

Number of children re-examined = 7,872 with 15,291 defects.

Defects of school children which require attention are notified by letter to the parents and 14,659 notices were forwarded during the year in regard to 14,745 children. The figures include defects notified by the Dental Surgeons, but not cleansing examinations. The Health Visitors subsequently visit the homes of such children to point out to the parents the necessity of treatment, if this has not already been obtained. 6,504 defects were investigated at the homes by the nurses and the following information was elicited from the parents:—Actually receiving attention, 1,283; promised to obtain attention, 4,467; no satisfactory reply received, 754.

8. MEDICAL TREATMENT.

School Clinics.

There are ten School Clinics in the Administrative County, as follows:—

				Defects Treated.
Rhymney Cottage Hospital	...	...	...	Teeth, Vision, Tonsils, and Adenoids.
Nantyglo and Blaina Hospital	...	...	...	Ditto.
Pontypool and District Hospital	...	...	...	Ditto.
Crumlin, Hafodyrynys Road	...	...	...	Teeth and Vision.
Abercarn, The Surgery	...	...	...	Ditto.
Blaenavon, The Surgery	...	...	...	Ditto.
Tredegar, The Surgery	...	...	...	Ditto.
Pengam, Vine House	...	...	...	Ditto.
Newport, Stanley Road	...	...	...	Teeth, Vision, Tonsils, Adenoids and Minor Ailments.
Travelling School Clinic	...	...	...	Teeth and Vision.

Travelling Clinic.

The advantage which parents in the rural areas have taken of the facilities for treatment of defects of vision and teeth in their children, continues to justify the provision of the Travelling Clinic. The percentage of appointments kept, although lower than last year, is still a high one.

During the year 868 children were treated for defective teeth (1,390 attendances), and 145 children attended for correction of errors of refraction. Since the inauguration of the Travelling Clinic 8,111 children have received the benefit of attention to these two defects, and it can safely be asserted that but for the provision of this Clinic the vast majority of these children would not have had the slightest treatment.

The rural child has now the same opportunities for dental treatment and correction of errors of refraction as the child in the industrial areas.

Payment Scheme.

The payment scheme, which was set out in last year's report, continues to operate.

The amounts received during the year 1925 were as follows:—

Treatment Received.	Amount Received.	Total amount still outstanding to be collected from parents.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dental	39 18 0	7 8 0	
Tonsils and Adenoids ...	5 2 6	1 12 0	
X-Ray	0 13 0	—	
	<u>£45 13 6</u>	<u>£9 0 0</u>	

Last year the amount received was £34 11s. 6d.

A statement was included in last year's report, showing that the number of children treated, particularly for dental defects, had fallen considerably during the first year of the working of the scheme and there is a further drop of 210 in the number of dental treatments this year.

The following Table shows the numbers treated at the Clinics during the year 1925.

Clinics	Number of Appoint-ments made.	Number of Appoint-ments kept.	Percentage of Appoint-ments kept	NUMBER OF CHILDREN TREATED							
				Teeth.	Vision	Tonsils and Adenoids	X-Ray	Minor Ailments			
								Actual Cases	Visits Paid to Clinic		
Abercarn	289	201	69·5	94	52	...	...	...	...
Blaenavon	345	235	68·1	125	54	...	...	...	...
Blaina	838	661	78·8	373	99	10	...	...	...
Crumlin	528	295	55·8	201	51	...	...	...	...
Pontypool	1101	676	61·4	336	160	22	...	...	...
Rhymney	398	203	51·0	95	65	13	...	...	...
Tredegar	473	300	69·7	111	140	...	...	...	...
Pengam	468	298	63·6	180	46	...	...	...	...
Newport	1967	1426	76·06	189	361	166	38	201	394		
Travelling Clinic ...	1726	1390	80·5	868	145	...	...	...	...
Totals... ..	8133	5658	69·9	2572	1173	211	38	201	394		

(a) MINOR AILMENTS.

Of the children referred for treatment of minor ailments at medical inspections during the year, 1,232, or 80·8 per cent., received attention. Of these cases, 201, or 14·4 per cent., were treated at the Clinic, Newport, and 1,031, or 74·0 per cent., by the parents' own medical attendants.

The Report of the Medical Officer in charge, Dr. M. H. Gordon, is as follows:—

“ The Minor Ailments Clinic is held on Wednesday mornings and on alternate Saturdays.

Otorrhœa, Blepharitis and certain skin diseases formed the majority of the cases treated; the patients suffering from otorrhœa far outnumbering the others.

The cases of otorrhœa, on the whole, cleared up satisfactorily, but it was sometimes difficult to convince the mothers that the treatment must be carried out regularly and thoroughly. At their first visit to the Clinic the mothers were carefully shown the method of treatment and were advised how to carry it out at home. Very resistant cases were referred for further advice to Dr. Lee, the Specialist in Ear, Nose and Throat ailments.

Of the cases of Blepharitis treated at the Clinic, the majority, after their first visit, could have their further treatment carried out at home. These cases generally cleared up very satisfactorily.

The skin diseases seen chiefly at the Clinic were Eczema, Psoriasis, Ringworm and Alopecia Areata. The majority of the cases of Eczema were completely cured after attendance at the Clinic, but a few cases were difficult to treat owing to lack of cleanliness in the home and want of care with the daily dressings.

A number of cases of Ringworm were referred for X-Ray treatment.

The attendance at the Clinic during the year was very satisfactory.”

(b) TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

During the year, 1,131 children in whom nose and throat defects were discovered, were referred for treatment.

Pronounced cases are referred for immediate surgical treatment, but otherwise the procedure adopted is as follows:—

1. Where the amount of the obstruction is slight, but accompanied by a certain amount of mouth breathing and poor chest development, such children are not necessarily referred for operative treatment, but an attempt is made with the co-ordination of the Instructors in Physical Training to improve the condition so that operative measures are unnecessary.

The following are particulars of the cases which received attention at the Clinic during the year :—

	No. of Cases treated			No. of visits paid to Clinic.	Results of Treatment.						No. of visits necessary to cure defects											
	Brought forward from last year.	New Cases	Total		Cured	Declined further appointment.	Obtained treatment from local doctor	Still under treatment	Referred to Hospital	Referred for X Ray	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Ringworm	2	13	15	20	3	2	..	..	..	10	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Impetigo	2	3	5	10	2	2	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seborrhœa	3	17	20	40	3	2	..	12	..	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eczema	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scabies	2	2	4	8	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Skin Diseases	2	12	14	42	4	1	..	9	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blepharitis	4	36	40	88	22	7	..	11	..	..	12	5	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Conjunctivitis	..	6	6	13	3	..	..	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cornical Ulcers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phlyctenular Ulcers	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Eye Diseases	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	5	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Otorrhœa	30	52	82	146	26	17	..	38	1	..	10	5	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wax in Ears	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Ear Diseases	2	9	11	23	7	1	..	3	..	..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enlarged Glands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clinical examination only	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	47	154	201	394	73	34	..	79	2	13	34	17	7	6	8	..	..	1	..	..	..	..

44 sessions were held, 640 appointments were made and 387 kept, a percentage of 50·4.

The Committee paid the rail fares on 331 occasions, at a total cost of £76 12s. 5d.

2. When on subsequent inspection or inspections, the foregoing has had no beneficial effect, then these children are referred for operative treatment.
3. After operative interference the child is again examined, and is especially referred to the Instructors for training in breathing exercises. In many cases it is found that children persist in the mouth breathing habit even after the cause has been removed.
4. A few cases after all remain mouth breathers and in poor condition physically. In such it is often found that the nasal obstruction, co-incident with the other condition, is sufficient to cause trouble on its own account. In such cases the child is referred for nasal treatment.

In a few cases it is found that the adenoids, owing to the persistence of the mouth breathing habit, have again developed, and necessitate further treatment.

Re-examinations were made by the Medical Inspectors of 3,888 children who, at examinations in previous years, had been found to be suffering from enlarged tonsils or adenoids or both conditions. It was ascertained that 2,508 children had been treated.

The following cases received attention at the County Tonsils and Adenoids Clinics, the operations being performed by Dr. J. A. Lee, the Consulting Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.

Name of Clinic.	NEW CASES.						RE-EXAMINATIONS.				No. of Sessions.	
	No. of ap- points. made	No. kept.	Tonsils removed	Adenoids removed	Tonsils and Adenoids removed	Remarks.	No. of ap- points. made	No. kept	No. not kept	Satisfactory		
Blaina ...	10	10	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Newport	201	170	...	...	166	4 deferred	...	...	...	...	22	
Pontypool	30	24	...	...	22	2 deferred	...	8	5	3	5	3
Rhymney	20	13	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total	261	217	...	...	211	6 deferred	...	8	5	3	5	28

In addition to the above, 46 ear, nose or throat cases were specially examined and advice given by Dr. Lee.

The Committee paid the rail fares on 43 occasions at a total cost of £12 5s. 9d.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

Of the 23,138 children examined during the year (Routine, Specials and Re-examinations), 266 cases, or 1·11 per cent., were referred to the Tuberculosis Physicians of the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association for diagnosis and, if necessary, treatment.

The results of the Tuberculosis Physicians' findings are as follows:—
Diagnosed as Definite Cases:—

				Referred by Medical		Not so referred.	
				Inspectors.			
				Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pulmonary	...	...	3	6	3	6	
Glands	...	...	6	3	8	7	
Other Forms	...	...	5	8	3	6	
				—	—	—	—
				14	17	14	19
No definite signs of Tuberculosis,							
but cases to be kept under							
observation	...	...	30	35	19	22	
Non-Tubercular	...	...	69	57	26	25	
Appointments not kept	...		7	6	1	2	
				—	—	—	—
				120	115	60	68
				—	—	—	—

Total number of reports received, 363.

From the above table it will be seen that reports were received from the Tuberculosis Physicians upon 235 of the 266 cases notified to them and that 31 were definite cases in which Institutional treatment was indicated. The majority of these cases, together with some of the cases which were referred to the Tuberculosis Physicians in previous years and the cases which otherwise came to their notice were admitted to Hospital or Sanatoria during the year.

The following is the Tuberculosis Physicians' report in this connection:—

Admission to Hospitals and Sanatoria.

				Males.	Females.
Pulmonary	...	...	...	14	23
Glands	...	...	...	3	2
Other Forms	...	...	...	14	10
Suspicious Tuberculosis	...			2	4
				—	—
				33	39
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>

(d) SKIN DISEASES.

The parents of the 103 children suffering from Ringworm of the scalp were offered X-Ray treatment—74, or 71·8 per cent., are recorded as having undergone this treatment, of whom thirty-eight, or 36·8 per cent., received X-Ray treatment under the Local Education Authority's scheme.

The services of Dr. J. McGinn, of Newport, are retained by the Authority for the X-Ray treatment of ringworm cases. The report for the year is as follows:—

Number of Cases referred from 1924	Number of New Cases.	Number of Appointments made	Number of Appointments kept	Number Cured	Number Declined Treatment	Number still under Treatment	Number of Visits Necessary to Cure								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	25	176	160	30	2	6	2	4	12	2	3	2	3	1	1

33, or 82·5 per cent., of the cases of ringworm of the body referred, were treated. 12·5 per cent. of the cases had their treatment carried out at the School Clinic, under the Local Education Authority's scheme.

The Education Committee paid the rail fares on 99 occasions at a cost of £25 0s. 7d.

Of scabies cases, 4, or 20·9 per cent., were given clinic treatment. These were mostly chronic intractable cases.

Of other skin diseases referred, 36, or 12·1 per cent. were treated at the Clinic.

(e) EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.

During the year 801 children were referred for treatment on account of external eye trouble. Of this number 355, or 44·3 per cent., followed the advice given and sought treatment, 48, or 5·9 per cent. of whom were treated at the Clinic. 187, or 23·3 per cent. made other arrangements.

A detailed account of the diseases and place of treatment is given in the tabulated list.

(f) VISION.

For errors of refraction, squint, and other defects of vision, 2,867 children were referred for treatment. In 1,173 cases the offer of further investigation and if necessary, treatment at the Clinic, was accepted.

In 11·9 per cent. of the cases referred for treatment, parents made their own arrangements with private practitioners or hospitals.

Children for whom spectacles are prescribed at the School Clinics are re-examined at the next visit of the Medical Inspector to the School.

In some cases where there is a high error of refraction, especially if myopic in character, the children are periodically re-examined at the Clinic.

In cases where the error, especially if due to myopia, is a very high one, it is sometimes found necessary to exclude the child from school, so that the limited vision the child possesses shall be conserved.

In other cases it is found to be sufficient to advise the Head Teacher that it is necessary for the child to refrain from using the eyes for near work until otherwise advised.

Those of the Assistant School Medical Officers who have had experience in the correction of errors of refraction are in charge of the eye clinics and they deal with the majority of the cases which are examined. Children suffering from bad squint and severe defects of vision are referred to Dr. R. J. Coulter, the Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon, who attends a Clinic at Newport once a week. Dr. Coulter examined 255 cases during the year.

The record of work accomplished at all the Clinics during 1925 is:—
Number of children examined:—

New cases	...	...	...	...	836
Re-examinations	...	...	...	...	337
					<hr/>
					1,173
					<hr/>

The number of appointments made was 1,555 and the number kept, 1,173, a percentage of 75·4.

Conditions found on examination:—

Defective Vision (one eye)	...	...	114
Defective Vision (both eyes)	...	...	573
Total Squints	...	...	110
Defective Vision and Squint	...	...	42
Myopia	...	...	59
Simple Myopia Astigmatism	...	...	33
Myopia and Myopia Astigmatism	...	...	66
Hypermetropia	...	...	158
Progressive Myopia	...	...	5
Simple Hypermetropia Astigmatism	...	...	105
Hypermetropia and Astigmatism	...	...	178
Mixed Astigmatism	...	...	60
Conjunctivitis	...	...	11
Blepharitis	...	...	21
Corneal Opacities	...	...	2
Amblyopia, (one eye)	...	...	10
Photophobia	...	...	9
Nystagmus	...	...	2
Other forms	...	...	14
Conjunctivitis and Blepharitis	...	...	3
Phlyctenular Ulcers	...	...	3
Myopia Crescents	...	...	12

Action taken:—

New cases:—

Spectacles recommended	...	...	664
Spectacles not needed	...	...	172

Re-examinations:—

Change of spectacles recommended	...	...	250
No change necessary	...	...	87

Eight children were excluded from school during the year for eye complaints as a result of examinations at the eye clinics.

Pairs of spectacles provided by Committee on account of poverty of parents, 314, with repairs to 22 pairs, at a cost of £84 17s. 6d.

Train fares of children and guardians paid by Committee on account of poverty of parents, 131 cases, at a cost of £26 11s. 5d.

Head Teachers were advised that children should do no near work in 13 cases.

Results of re-examination at School of children seen at Eye Clinics:—

	Cases in which parents defrayed expenses of visit to Clinic.	Cases in which Committee paid expenses.	Totals.
No. Examined ...	914	416	1330
Glasses worn and found to be satisfactory ...	319	119	438
Glasses requiring repairs ...	57	39	96
Glasses obtained but not worn on day of examination ...	77	59	136
Change of lenses necessary ...	3	2	5
Glasses not obtained ...	31	...	31
Vision improved, no need to wear Glasses ...	176	44	220
Referred for Re-Examination ...	232	131	363

It will be noticed from the above table that in only 31 cases were glasses not obtained after prescriptions had been given. The provision by the Committee of free spectacles in necessitous cases has not only been of the greatest assistance to the child, but has proved a great economy of the time of the examining doctors, inasmuch as there is no obstacle to the obtaining of the spectacles after they have been prescribed.

(g) EAR DISEASE AND HEARING.

Treatment for ear disease was carried out at the Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport.

394 cases of ear disease were referred for treatment. Of this number 93, or 23·6 per cent. were brought to the Clinic. As will be observed in the tabulated list, otorrhœa is the most prevalent factor in ear trouble among the children, and it is essentially one that requires careful supervision in its treatment, otherwise regrettable sequelæ might follow.

80 cases of defective hearing were referred for treatment.

(h) DENTAL DEFECTS.

Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches, the Senior School Dentist, has rendered the following report in regard to the treatment carried out under the Authority:—

“ During the past year the number of children inspected in the schools was slightly below the previous year, and the number treated was also smaller. The percentage of appointments kept, however, increased slightly.

The reason of the decrease in number was the absence through illness of one of the Dental staff for some weeks.

We still have to contend with a certain amount of obstinacy on the part of the parents in the direction of the filling of decayed teeth. They would prefer them extracted. It takes a considerable amount of time and patience to convince them that the permanent teeth are worth preserving. They can understand the removal of decayed teeth, but it is difficult to persuade most of them that attention in time would prevent the loss of many valuable teeth. Another important fact that must be constantly impressed upon parents is that neglect of the temporary teeth causes decay of the permanent.

The success of the Pengam Clinic, which was opened in 1924, has proved how essential it was to have one in this locality, catering for such a very largely populated area, and so easily accessible from Blackwood and adjacent places.

The Travelling Clinic still holds first place, both as regards numbers treated and percentage of appointments kept (80·5 per cent.), Blaina and Abercarn being next with over 70 per cent. of appointments kept.

It is gratifying to note that the good work commenced in school life for the care of the teeth will, in future, be continued when the child has left school, for under the new schemes of the Approved Societies with the Dental Association, it will be possible for the children, soon after commencing work, to obtain assistance in connection with dental treatment.

The following table shows the dental work done during 1925:—

Clinic.	Number of Children treated.	Percentage of appointments kept.	No. of Fillings.	No. of Gas cases.
Abercarn ...	94	70·2	91	51
Blaenavon ...	125	63·8	126	72
Blaina ...	373	77·3	307	239
Crumlin ...	201	54·3	281	89
Newport ...	189	60·2	188	126
Pengam ...	180	62·2	201	100
Pontypool ...	336	56·4	398	215
Rhymney ...	95	42·8	87	57
Tredegar ...	111	55·1	157	54
Travelling Clinic ...	868	80·1	1019	436
	2572	66·9	2855	1439

Recommendations.

Admission to Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Great	
Portland Street, London	7
Admission to Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Country	
Branch, Brockley Hill	17
No Treatment required	4
Operation in three years' time, but meanwhile boots to be altered	1
Operation in five years' time, but in the meantime night splint to	
be worn	1
Operation in eight years' time, meanwhile to wear patten on boot	1
Splint to be made	4
Special boot to be made	3
To see Surgeon in six months	1
Massage advised and see Surgeon in nine months	1
Boots to be altered	2
	—
	42
	—

Twenty children were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, or its Country Branch at Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex, under the scheme whereby 12 beds have been retained for the crippled children (of school age and under that age) of this County.

The defects from which these children suffered were:—

Talipes Equino Varus	5
Deformity of lower limb	1
Plano Valgus	2
Pes Cavus	1
Coxa Vara	1
Fractured neck of femur	1
Scoliosis	1
Infantile paralysis	6
Osteomyelitis	1
Old Tuberculosis of Spine	1
	—
	20
	—

Upon their discharge from the Orthopædic Hospital the County Medical Officer takes charge of their after care. He sees them periodically at the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, and supervises massage and electrical treatment, when this is necessary. A close watch is kept upon the surgical boots and instruments which have been supplied to the

children, to see that these are worn constantly and continue to be suitable.

Ten children attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 159 attendances.

Twelve surgical boots and 14 surgical appliances for physically defective children were supplied by the Committee.

In three of the cases the Elementary Education Committee decided that the parents should contribute a small sum weekly towards the cost of maintenance at the Hospital and in two other cases the parents were able to bear the cost of surgical instruments.

The total amount received from parents under this heading during the year was £16 5s. 0d.

Twenty-four children with surgical tuberculosis were treated at the hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

9. OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

The provision already made for open-air education was continued during the year. It is to be regretted that the financial condition of the County has not permitted any extension of this valuable work.

(a) Playground Classes.

In fine weather playground classes are arranged at most of the Schools where facilities are available.

(b) School Journeys.

These are part of the curriculum of every School and take the form of a Nature Study lesson.

(c) School Camp.

It is regretted that under present conditions the institution of a school camp during the past summer was not possible.

(d) Open-air Classrooms.

Open-air classes were held at five of the Authority's Schools, and consisted of eight departments, viz. :—

School.				Department.			No. selected from school for open-air class.
Aberbargoed	...	..	...	Mixed	...	...	40
Libanus	...	...	...	Mixed	...	...	29
Do.	...	...	...	Infants	...	...	37
Pentwyn	...	...	...	Mixed	...	...	26
Do.	...	...	...	Infants	...	...	23
Pontllanfraith	...	...	...	Boys	...	...	35
Do.	...	...	...	Girls	...	...	33
Tynywern	...	...	...	Mixed	...	...	35
Total							<u>258</u>

It was not possible to utilise the Open-air Classrooms at Cefn Forest, Glanhwy, Gwyddon, and Phillipstown, for the purpose for which they were built owing to the demands for additional accommodation at the Schools for elementary education.

The reports of the Medical Officers in charge of the Classrooms are as follows:—

LIBANUS:—DR. G. RUSSELL.

There are two open-air classrooms in this school, one in the Infant Department, and one in the Mixed. Suitable children may thus have the benefit of it throughout the whole of their school life.

The infant class at present numbers 37, the mixed 29. In the latter there is room for others, but these vacancies will be filled soon, when the senior infant class is moved up to the mixed department.

The progress of the children was very satisfactory, all were gaining in weight, and improving in their general condition.

The extra physical exercises given in the Open-air Department also benefit the children, who are, as a rule, of poor muscular development.

PONTLLANFRAITH:—DR. G. RUSSELL.

There are two departments in this school, one in the Girls' school, and one in the Boys'.

The boys at present number 35, the girls 33. In the latter there are a few vacancies, but the health of the other girls of the school was found satisfactory, and it was not necessary to transfer any to the Open-air Department. The Girls' Department has proved an exception to the general rule in having one or two parents objecting to their children being there. These,

however, were cases where it was desired that the children should work for entrance scholarships to the Secondary schools. Luckily the children in question were found to have so benefited by their time there already, that it was not necessary, in regard to the child's health, to go against the parent's wishes.

In the Boys' Department it was possible to transfer some of the pupils back to ordinary classrooms—the vacancies will be filled at the next routine medical inspection.

TYNYWERN:—DR. G. RUSSELL.

Owing to the lack of accommodation it is still only possible to utilise one of the open-air classrooms.

At present the number in this department is 35, which leaves a few vacancies to be filled at the next inspection.

As in the previous year the children chosen were those in indifferent state of health, resulting from anæmia, malnutrition, and tuberculous family history, or previous tuberculous personal history; or lowered vitality and chest development, as a result of neglected obstruction in the upper air passages.

Most of these children, of course, would benefit still more if the parents would be impressed in the necessity for good hygienic conditions in the home, and a requisite amount of sleep for young growing children. The latter is certainly within everyone's reach.

The progress of the children was very satisfactory. They also seemed to be the better for the cup of milk in the middle of the morning. It would also be beneficial to most of the children if a "Cod Liver Oil Queue" could be instituted as well.

PENTWYN:—DR. M. M. PROUDFOOT.

There are two open-air classrooms in this school, one in the Infant School and one in the Mixed School. In both sections the results continue to be very satisfactory.

The cases selected for this Department were, as in the previous year, those children suffering from anæmia, malnutrition, etc.

At the last Medical Inspection there were 23 children in the Infant department and 26 in the Mixed department. They were all found to be gaining steadily in weight, and their general condition showed a marked

improvement. In both sections a few children were found fit to be transferred to the ordinary class. The attendance throughout the past year was very good.

ABERBARGOED :—DR. S. R. E. DAVIES.

The open-air department at this school consists of one classroom only, and the maximum accommodation is 40.

The average number of pupils during the past year who have been on the roll has been 40.

The average attendance has been 33.

From these figures it will be seen that the class has been well utilised and, considering that the pupils are selected for this class on account of their poor state of health, the attendances compare very satisfactorily with those in the school as a whole.

There has been no complaint from any parent during the year on the score of undue exposure to cold and I think it may be said, without exception, that these children have all gained considerable benefit from the fresh air treatment.

There are a large number of children who would benefit greatly by being taught in an Open-air Class, and if these Departments could be attached to every school in the Valleys, I feel convinced the standard of health would be considerably raised.

10. PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The School Medical Service is closely associated with the work of physical training in the Schools and the Assistant School Medical Officers have been instructed to note all children who are likely to derive benefit from a course of physical exercises. These cases as they arise are referred to the County Organisers of Physical Education, who make the necessary arrangements for the children to receive instruction.

It is regretted that the work of Physical Training has been curtailed during the year. Mr. E. W. O'Donnell terminated his duties under this Authority on April 18th, 1925, having been appointed Organiser of Physical Training under the Glamorgan Education Committee, and Miss Fry died during August, after a comparatively brief illness. Both had rendered excellent service, and the work had made great progress since their appointments.

Mr. F. Johnston, Organiser of Physical Training under the Merthyr Education Committee, and Miss E. A. John, Organiser of Physical Training under the Denbighshire Education Committee, have been appointed as Organisers to replace them, and will commence duties at an early date.

During the year the following visits were paid by the Organisers:—

Mixed Departments	...	...	...	145
Boys' do.	...	...	...	14
Girls' do.	...	...	...	17
Infants' do.	...	...	...	43

In addition, two visits were paid to Secondary Schools in connection with remedial cases.

During the year the work has proceeded along the usual lines and demonstration lessons were given at the different schools by the Organisers, and the work of the teachers inspected. A class for teachers was conducted by Miss Fry at Blaina, catering for the teachers in the district, and was much appreciated.

The scheme of Athletic Sports, inaugurated in 1922 continued last Summer, and meetings were held at various centres. Although the teachers were deprived of the help and advice of the Organisers, the sports proved very successful. The Rugby and Association Football leagues are still in force and the teachers have readily given up time to the coaching of the teams and the work in connection with the Competitions.

Remedial cases have been referred to this Department by the Medical Department, and these have received the attention of the Organisers. Special exercises have been recommended for the children, and these put in charge of a member of the school staff, who has received advice from the Organisers.

It is hoped that during the coming year the progress will be fully maintained, as two experienced Organisers have been appointed.

11. PROVISION OF MEALS.

The following report of the Director of Elementary Education is submitted:—

“ It was found necessary, throughout the year, to continue the provision of breakfast and dinner to three scholars attending the Coedypaen Non-provided School. Nine scholars attending the Cross Ash Council School were also provided with dinner from 5th January,

1925, until 27th March, 1925, and also 44 scholars in schools in the Nantyglo and Blaina Area from 2nd December until the end of the year. The arrangements generally have been as in preceding years, and altogether 2,602 meals were supplied.

12. SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no facilities for school baths.

13. CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Parents are invited to and welcomed at all medical inspections and it is gratifying to note that they are availing themselves of the opportunity in increasing numbers, especially so when the inspecting Medical Officers have become known to the parents through the medium of the local Eye, Dental and Infant Welfare Clinics.

14. CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

The valuable help afforded by Head Teachers and their Assistants continues. They are called upon to assist very largely in the arrangements for the inspections, making a return of the children eligible for examination, preparing the cards of new cases, weighing and measuring the children, notifying the parents of the date of the inspection, and arranging a room for the use of the inspector.

The latter function, is very often the cause of considerable inconvenience to the Head Teachers for in only a few of the schools of the County is there a room to spare for the inspection. Yet they are always courteous and willing to oblige.

Practically the same routine is followed with the visit of the School Dentist, the exceptions of course, being the weighing and measuring of children and the notification of parents.

In many other ways the Teachers are of assistance. They attend at the Inspections and give information to the Doctor from their own observation of the children, which is of value in the diagnosis of difficult cases. Their influence with the parents is of great service when the question of treatment of defect arises.

15. CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

There is very active co-operation between the Medical Inspectors and the School Attendance Officers. The Superintendent Attendance Officer writes each week to the Attendance Officers in whose districts the Medical Inspector

is due to visit, instructing them to arrange that any absentees on the ground of ill health shall meet the Inspectors at the Schools. In addition, many special visits are paid to the schools for the purpose of examination of cases referred by the Attendance Officers. Medical certificates are given to the Officers for production to the Magistrates and frequently the Medical Inspectors attend Police Courts to tender evidence.

16. CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

There are at present no voluntary bodies in the Administrative County interested in the welfare of school children, with the exception of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. In the near future it may be possible to enlist the help of the Women's Institutes which have been formed in many parts of the County. The three local Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C. work in hearty co-operation with this department, and all cases referred to them receive prompt and effective attention. The bulk of the cases referred to the Society are verminous and neglected children. Fifty-four cases were referred to the Society in the year 1925.

17. BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

By powers conferred on the Education Authority under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, a number of children are maintained at Special Schools.

They are as follows:—

Blind—Swansea Institution for the Blind	...	...	14
Deaf and Dumb—			
Swansea	...	...	10
Derby	...	...	5
Margate	...	...	1
Bristol	...	...	3
Royal Normal College, London	...	...	1
Oral School for Deaf, Cardiff	...	...	1
Mentally Defective—Attending Certified schools for			
Mentally Defective children, Feeble-Minded	...	...	2
Epileptic—Attending Certified Special Schools for			
Epileptics	...	...	1

Particulars of the numbers of children in these classes are given in the statistical tables at the end of this report.

Blind.

There were at the end of the year four blind children not at a special school or institution. Of these, two were awaiting vacancies at Swansea

Institution at that time, whilst one was under the age of seven years. There is difficulty in obtaining admission to institutions for this class of child.

Of the 47 partially blind children not in institutions, 21 were diagnosed as Myopes and will not in future be included in this return. Of the remainder, five were awaiting vacancies at the end of the year, 10 were not dealt with owing to the parents objecting to the children being sent away, six were too young for admission, and five are now over school age.

Deaf and Dumb.

Nineteen deaf and dumb and 11 partially deaf and dumb children suitable for institutional training had not been sent away, the reasons being as follows:—

Parents unwilling, four; children under seven years of age and difficulty experienced in obtaining admission to institutions, nine; awaiting admission at end of year, four; not suitable for institutions at present as children showing signs of improvement, six; replies awaited from parents, six; child expected to leave the County, one.

Action is being taken to force unwilling parents to send their children to an institution.

Mentally Defective.

There are 346 known mentally defectives between the ages of five and 16 years, and 29 (severe) and 36 (mild) epileptics.

In accordance with the suggestion contained in Circular 1349 of the Board of Education, dated 12th January, 1925, arrangements are being made for the supervision of these children by the Inquiry Officer of the County Mental Deficiency Committee, in conjunction with her duties under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The epileptic child is another type for which the provision of Special School education is difficult by reason of the shortage of accommodation.

Cases of mental deficiency, idiots and imbeciles, and defectives who by virtue of age cease to come under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee are referred to the County Mental Deficiency Committee under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

One feeble-minded girl, eleven imbeciles (6 boys and 5 girls) and three idiots (boys) were notified to the County Mental Deficiency Committee by the Education Committee during the year.

The two mentally defective children attending Certified Schools are at Roman Catholic Institutions. There is no accommodation available at Special Schools for children of other denominations, although there are many children in the County who would benefit by such training. No further progress has been made in regard to the Special School for Mentally and Physically Defective Children which it is proposed to erect at Caerleon. The plans are still under the consideration of the Board of Education.

Mental Defectives under School Age.

At present where the deficiency is evident, the children are observed and note of them made either (i) by the Medical Officers at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, or (ii) by Health Visitors when visiting the homes in their respective districts.

18. NURSERY SCHOOLS.

No Nursery Schools are in existence in this County.

19. CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Medical inspection of pupils attending these schools has not been commenced.

20. CHOICE OF EMPLOYMENT.

No call upon the services of the County Medical Officer under the Education (Choice of Employment) Act, 1920, was made during the year.

21. SPECIAL INQUIRIES.

At the request of the Medical Branch of the Board of Education, Dr. M. M. Proudfoot, Assistant Medical Officer, conducted an examination by refraction, and an enquiry into the environment and family history of unselected children of each age from 6 to 16, both inclusive, the object being to gather information for the use of a Committee of Enquiry into causes of Defective Vision. Forty-five children were examined during the year and the reports were forwarded direct to the Board.

22. MISCELLANEOUS.

The following candidates for the teaching profession, etc. were examined by the School Medical Inspectors during the year:—

Technical Free Student Teachers	...	...	3
Boy Mechanics for Air Force	...	...	4

Five Teachers and one School Cleaner, absent from duties through illness, were also examined.

23. HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

The heights and weights are determined by the Head Teachers. The children are weighed and measured without boots, otherwise ordinary indoor clothing being worn.

1. HEIGHTS.

BOYS				GIRLS			
Age	No. of Children Measured	Average Heights	Anthropo-metric Standard	Age	No. of Children Measured	Average Heights	Anthropo-metric Standard
		Centimetres	Centimetres			Centimetres	Centimetres
3	111	95	88.9	3	102	94	86.4
4	732	98	94.0	4	608	96	91.4
5	1174	101	104.1	5	1079	104	102.8
6	352	110	111.7	6	315	106	108.5
7	90	113	116.8	7	107	109	113.0
8	1292	115	119.3	8	1196	128	118.0
9	348	118	128.3	9	314	115	123.8
10	30	130	131.4	10	36	131	129.5
11	42	133	135.8	11	38	136	134.6
12	976	138	139.7	12	895	140	140.9
13	589	141	144.7	13	489	144	144.6
14	36	145	150.4	14	18	147	151.7

2. WEIGHTS.

BOYS				GIRLS			
Age	No. of Children Weighed	Average Weights	Anthropo-metric Standard	Age	No. of Children Weighed	Average Weights	Anthropo-metric Standard
		Kilos	Kilos			Kilos	Kilos
3	112	14.8	15.4	3	114	14.7	14.2
4	650	16.0	16.7	4	493	15.3	16.3
5	1057	16.8	18.1	5	1068	16.5	17.6
6	256	19.2	20.1	6	206	18.6	18.9
7	91	20.6	22.5	7	103	20.8	21.4
8	1150	23.4	24.9	8	899	23.1	23.5
9	131	25.1	27.3	9	210	24.0	25.1
10	31	29.4	30.7	10	33	26.8	28.1
11	42	30.0	32.6	11	36	30.2	30.8
12	309	32.4	34.8	12	823	33.4	34.7
13	87	35.7	37.4	13	497	35.7	39.4
14	33	37.4	41.7	14	34	40.8	43.8

2. SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of pupils attending secondary schools in the County was commenced in March, 1921. The pupils at the following schools come within the scheme of inspection:—

Abergavenny County School (Girls).
 Abergavenny Grammar School (Boys).
 Abertillery County School (Boys and Girls).
 Ebbw Vale County School (Boys and Girls).
 Newbridge County School (Boys and Girls).
 Pontypool County School (Girls).
 Pontywaun County School (Boys and Girls).
 Tredegar County School (Boys and Girls).
 Maescywmmer Secondary School (Boys and Girls).
 Abersychan Higher Elementary School, Pupil Teachers' Centre.
 Chepstow County School (Boys and Girls).
 Nantyglo County School (Boys and Girls).
 Rhymney County School (Boys and Girls).

The general scheme of inspection being carried out is:—

- (i) Examination of all children upon admission, the character of the examination to depend upon the date of the last examination made in the Elementary School.
- (ii) Full examination of all children at 12 years of age.
- (iii) Subsequent to the age of 12, yearly examination, the degree and extent varying according to the previous record and other circumstances of the child.
- (iv) At the age of 15 a full routine examination to be made of each pupil, and the annual re-examination to continue so long as the pupil remains at School.

A visit of the School Medical Inspector is made each term. A male medical inspector examines boys and a lady inspector the girls. The instructions given to the School Medical Inspectors embody all the suggestions set out in the Memorandum of the Board of Education dealing with this subject.

Power is given to the Committee to extend to pupils of Secondary and other schools under this section of the Act the facilities for treatment which are already available for Elementary School children, viz.:—

Examination of eye defects and the provision of spectacles.
 Dental inspection and treatment.
 Operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids.
 Treatment of minor ailments and defects (e.g., skin diseases, running ears and sore eyes).
 Remedial exercises.

It has been decided that such treatment shall be available for Secondary pupils at the Committee's School Clinics. The Higher Education Committee has approved the same scale of charges as has been fixed for Elementary School children and which was detailed in the report for 1924.

Table showing the number of re-examinations made by Medical Inspectors and the result thereof :—

Condition	No. of defects for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated	Results of Treatment			No. of defects not treated	Percentage of defects treated
	Old Routine Cases	Special Cases	Total			Remedied	Improved	No. improved		
Nutrition	43	12	31	8	15	8	...	72.0
Uncleanliness { Head	6	4	2	2	...	...	...	33.3
{ Body	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	50.0
Clothing { Dirty
{ Excessive
{ Ragged
Poor Footgear
Skin { Ringworm { Head...
{ Body
{ Scabies
{ Impetigo	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	50.0
{ Other Diseases	9	3	6	2	1	3	...	66.6
Eye { Vision	119	52	50	28	11	11	17	42.0
{ Squint	12	2	9	1	2	6	1	75.0
{ External Eye disease	15	6	9	7	1	1	...	60.0
Ear { Otorrhoea	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	50.0
{ Defective Hearing	8	4	4	1	1	2	...	50.0
{ Wax
Nose { Enlarged Tonsils...	42	11	20	9	4	7	11	47.6
{ Adenoids	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	100.0
Nose and Throat { Tonsils & Adenoids	4	...	3	1	2	...	1	75.0
{ Mouth Breathing...
{ Other Diseases	15	4	11	1	4	6	...	73.3
Enlarged Cervical Glands...	10	3	7	1	3	3	...	70.0
Defective Speech	8	1	7	1	3	3	...	87.5
Teeth	126	50	56	26	27	3	20	44.4
Heart and { Heart Disease	44	10	34	3	3	28	...	77.2
Circulation { Anæmia	34	6	28	4	14	10	...	82.3
Lungs { Bronchitis	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	100.0
{ Bronchial Catarrh	6	...	6	4	...	2	...	100.0
Tuberculosis { Definite
{ Suspected	4	3	1	...	...	1	...	25.0
{ Other Forms	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	100.0
Nervous System { Epilepsy	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Chorea	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Conditions	7	1	6	...	4	2	...	85.7
Deformities	15	3	12	2	7	3	...	79.9
Miscellaneous	98	35	59	13	13	33	4	60.0
Totals	636	214	367	115	119	133	55	57.7

No. of children re-examined — 329 with 422 defects.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SECONDARY SCHOLARS.

The number of individual children inspected during the year was 1,712 first examinations, 36 special cases, and 329 re-examinations were also made.

Exclusive of the 329 re-examinations, 1,748 children had 751 defects which required treatment, and 195 defects needing to be kept under observation. These latter defects were not referred for treatment.

In reviewing the defects found amongst Secondary School pupils it is observed that out of the 1,712 pupils medically inspected, 302 were found at the time of their examination, to be physically fit. Of the remainder, 1,410 children had defects to the number of 723 needing remediation, and 184 defects requiring to be kept under observation, making an average of 1·8 defects per child. In extracting these figures a severe standard has been set, e.g., a child found with one decayed tooth was recorded as defective.

UNCLEANLINESS.

Unsatisfactory bodily cleanliness was found in three cases (one boy and two girls), i.e., ·17 per cent. of all examined.

In 21 cases among the girl scholars, and 13 cases boys, unsatisfactory head conditions (nits) were found, that is, in 1·9 per cent. of girls inspected.

The head cleanliness of the girls attending the Secondary Schools has considerably improved but a good deal more supervision as to personal hygiene is urgently necessary.

NUTRITION.

Nutrition was below normal in 132 cases, 7·7 per cent. of all the scholars seen at routine inspections.

67 boys—8·6 per cent. of the 778 examined.

65 girls—6·9 per cent. of the 934 examined.

NOSE AND THROAT CONDITIONS.

Abnormal nose and throat conditions which were discovered at the routine inspections were as follows:—

	Number Examined	Tonsils and Adenoids.	Mouth Breathers.	Tonsils. Slightly Enlarged.	Much Enlarged.	Slight Adenoids.
		Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Boys	... 778	·2	·1	2·3	·5	·1
Girls	... 934	·1	1·0	12·3	1·2	—

Miscellaneous diseased conditions of nose and throat were found in 4·4 per cent. of all scholars examined.

161 cases (9·4 per cent. of those examined) required operative treatment for either tonsils or adenoids, or both.

GLANDULAR CONDITIONS.

The following table shows the extent of glandular conditions in the scholars examined at routine inspections:—

	Number Examined.	Submaxillary.	Anterior Cervical.	Posterior Cervical.
		Enlarged. Per Cent.	Enlarged. Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Boys	... 778	2·1	·1	3·4
Girls	... 934	·1	·1	—

LUNG DISEASES.

There were 5 children (·2) suffering from Bronchitis. Bronchial catarrh was discovered in 18 cases (1·0 per cent.), whilst other conditions accounted for 5, or ·2 per cent. of those examined.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year two pupils were referred to the Tuberculosis Physicians of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association for confirmation of diagnosis, and if necessary, treatment. Males, 1; Females, 1. The reports were:—Definitely no evidence of Tuberculosis, one. In the other case no definite evidence of Tuberculosis was found, but the pupil is to be kept under observation.

SKIN DISEASES.

One case of Ringworm of body (·05), one case of Scabies (·05), and two cases of Impetigo (·1), were found, and other skin diseases were present in 24 cases (1·4 per cent.).

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

Twenty-five cases of Blepharitis (1·4 per cent.) were found. There were 4, or ·2 per cent. cases of other forms of eye disease.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

162 cases of defective vision (12·1 per cent.) were recorded. The extent of defect is shown in the following table:—

	No. Examined	Only one eye defective.				Cases where both eyes were equally defective.		Cases of unequal error.				Squint
		Right		Left				Right		Left		
		$\frac{6}{5}$ to $\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$	$\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$ and less	$\frac{6}{5}$ to $\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$	$\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$ and less	$\frac{6}{5}$ to $\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$	$\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$ and less	$\frac{6}{5}$ to $\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$	$\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$ and less	$\frac{6}{5}$ to $\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$	$\frac{6}{2\frac{1}{4}}$ and less	
		p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Boys ...	778	1·0	·7	1·1	1·0	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·1	1·1	1·1	·2
Girls ...	934	1·0	1·7	·7	1·3	·7	1·8	1·1	·7	·4	·7	·2

DEFECTIVE TEETH.

Defective teeth were found in 40·8 per cent. of children examined, as follows:—

		Number Examined.	Less than four decayed. Per Cent.	Four or more decayed. Per Cent.	Dirty Teeth. Per Cent.
Boys	...	778	32·1	5·3	·2
Girls	...	934	39·7	5·0	·3

DEFECTS OF SPEECH.

Defects of stammering occurred in 17 cases (·9 per cent.).

HEARING.

The hearing was defective in seven cases (·4 per cent.), six cases occurring amongst the girls and one amongst the boys.

DEFORMITIES.

A deformity due to Rickets was evident in one case (·05 per cent.) of the girls. Deformities due to various causes other than Rickets occurred in 56 cases (3·2 per cent.) of the children examined.

CARDIAC AND CIRCULATORY DEFECTS.

Organic heart disease was found in four (5 per cent.) of the boys examined, and in 16 (1·7 per cent.) of the girls. Twenty-five (1·7 per cent.) of the scholars brought for routine inspection were anæmic. In addition, slight anæmia was present in ten cases (2 per cent.).

Miscellaneous diseases accounted for defects in 23 cases (1·3 per cent.) of those examined at routine medical inspection.

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

1. HEIGHTS.

BOYS				GIRLS			
Age	No. of Children Measured	Average Heights	Anthropo-metric Standard	Age	No. of Children Measured	Average Heights	Anthropo-metric Standard
		Centimetres	Centimetres			Centimetres	Centimetres
10	—	—	131·4	10	—	—	129·5
11	7	139	135·8	11	5	139	134·6
12	60	141	139·7	12	42	141	140·9
13	108	144	144·7	13	76	143	146·6
14	48	154	150·4	14	60	151	151·7
15	77	158	158·1	15	49	152	154·9
16	25	166	163·1	16	56	157	156·8
17	13	164	168·2	17	23	158	158·7
18	2	175	170·1	18	3	159	158·9
19	—	—	170·8	19	1	166	159·3

2. WEIGHTS.

BOYS				GIRLS			
Age	No. of Children Weighed	Average Weights	Anthropo-metric Standard	Age	No. of Children Weighed	Average Weights	Anthropo-metric Standard
		Kilos	Kilos			Kilos	Kilos
10	—	—	30·5	10	—	—	28·1
11	7	32·7	32·6	11	5	33·8	30·8
12	60	34·3	34·8	12	40	35·6	34·7
13	105	35·9	37·4	13	71	37·4	39·4
14	47	41·1	41·7	14	56	37·6	43·8
15	75	45·8	46·1	15	58	46·6	48·1
16	33	52·3	53·9	16	60	51·0	51·2
17	15	56·5	58·9	17	19	52·8	52·3
18	—	—	62·2	18	—	—	54·8
19	—	—	63·2	19	—	—	56·1

The heights and weights are taken by the Head Teachers. The pupils are measured and weighed without boots, otherwise ordinary indoor clothes being worn.

TREATMENT.

Parents were notified by post of the defects discovered in their children. They were advised to consult their medical attendants and were notified that the treatment at the Committee's School Clinics was available for those who could not afford to obtain such treatment.

The Committee's Health Visitors followed up subsequently the cases of children with defects requiring attention, and it was discovered that 57·7 per cent. of the defects had been treated.

The following work was undertaken at the Clinics:—

37 pupils made application for dental treatment. Of this number 19 submitted themselves to the Committee's School Clinics for treatment.

58 appointments were made for errors of refraction and 55 pupils were examined:—

Spectacles were recommended in	...	43	cases
„ not needed in	...	10	„
Changes of spectacles necessary in	...	2	„
„ „ not necessary	...	—	„

One pupil was operated upon at the Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic.

In all the cases where charges were made for treatment the full amount was paid by the parents of the pupils concerned.

I desire once more to express my appreciation of the valuable co-operation of the Headmasters, the Headmistresses and their Staffs. To their diligence in notifying to this department cases which required special examination, as well as their efforts to facilitate the work of the Medical Inspectors and the Health Visitors at the Schools, is due a very large part of the success which School Medical Inspection has attained.

I also thank my colleagues for their loyalty in carrying out the policy of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. ROCYN JONES,

School Medical Officer.

23rd April, 1926.

APPENDIX I.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

A. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Table I.—Return of Medical Inspections.

A. Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of Code Group Inspections:—

Entrants	...	...	...	5,570	
Intermediates		...	...	3,930	
Leavers	...	...	...	4,001	
					13,501

Number of other Routine Inspections	—
-------------------------------------	---

Total Routine Inspections	13,501
---------------------------	--------

B. Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	1,647	
Number of Re-inspections	...	7,872	
Total			9,519

Number of children specially examined			
owing to accidents upon School			
premises	...	...	...
			118

Total number of Individual Children inspected		
(Routine, Special, and Re-examinations)	...	23,138

N.B.—(1) One Medical Inspector left on the 17th April, 1925, and was not replaced until 9th July, 1925.

(2) There were also the following periods of absence of Medical Inspectors during the year:—

Medical Inspectors—5 months' illness.

Do. do. —15½ weeks' special leave for study.

Dentists—7 weeks' illness.

Table II. A.—Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1925.

Defect or Disease.		ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Malnutrition	...	128	1322	8	180
Uncleanliness	...	—	—	—	—
	(See Table IV., Group V.).				
Skin	Ringworm—Scalp	20	—	17	—
	Body	8	—	6	—
	Scabies	20	—	11	—
	Impetigo	130	—	31	—
	Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous) ..	343	—	107	—
Eye	Blepharitis	232	—	59	—
	Conjunctivitis	69	—	27	—
	Keratitis	—	—	1	—
	Corneal Opacities	2	—	2	—
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	722	580	52	30
	Squint	104	13	33	—
	Other Conditions	34	5	11	—
Ear	Defective Hearing	80	—	30	—
	Otitis Media	14	—	9	—
	Other Ear Diseases	117	—	12	—
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils only	518	2219	158	91
	Adenoids only	6	117	9	31
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	378	266	62	64
	Other Conditions	228	72	73	—
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous) ..		20	238	32	—
Defective Speech	...	58	3	5	—

TABLE II—continued.

Defect or Disease.		ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring Treatment.	Requiring be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Teeth—Dental Diseases	...	2450	5931	179	149
Heart and Circulation	Heart disease { Organic	246	—	19	—
	Anaemia { Functional	—	46	—	77
		202	25	135	—
Lungs	Bronchitis	137	685	37	34
	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...
		88	37	8	1
Tuber- culosis	Pulmonary:—				
	Definite	3	—	10	—
	Suspected	1	9	8	22
	Non-Pulmonary:—				
	Glands	—	—	8	8
	Spine	—	—	1	2
	Hip	2	—	2	—
	Other Bones and Joints	2	—	2	—
	Skin	—	—	1	—
	Other forms	4	—	3	—
Nervous System	Epilepsy	2	—	7	7
	Chorea	6	—	7	—
	Other conditions	3	76	16	—
Deformities	Rickets	10	57	3	—
	Spinal Curvature	47	8	15	—
	Other forms	67	81	29	5
Other Diseases and Defects	...	181	109	57	—

B.—Number of Individual Children found at ROUTINE Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

GROUP.				NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		Percentage of children found to require treatment.
				Inspected.	Found to require Treatment.	
Code Groups:—						
Entrants	...	...		5,570	1,011	18.1
Intermediates	...	...		3,930	458	11.6
Leavers	...	...		4,001	540	13.4
Total	...	...		13,501	2,009	14.8
Other Routine Inspections				—	—	—

Table III. Return of all Exceptional Children
in the Area in 1925.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially Blind).	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	8	6	14
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	3	1	4
	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	15	17	32
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	8	7	15
Deaf (including Deaf and Dumb and partially Deaf).	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	11	10	21
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	1	1	2
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	10	7	17
	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	4	2	6
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	4	1	5
Mentally Defective.	Feebleminded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	2	—	2
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	96	94	190
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	87	67	154
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year.	Feebleminded ...	—	1	1
		Imbeciles ...	6	5	11
		Idiots ...	3	—	3

TABLE III—continued.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total
Epileptics.	Suffering from severe Epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics ...	1	—	1
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools..	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	6	6	12
		At no School or Institution ...	9	7	16
	Suffering from Epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	12	15	27
		At no School or Institution ...	6	3	9
Physically Defective.	Infectious Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis.	At Hospital or Sanatoria approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	17	25	42
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	2	2
	Non-Infectious but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis.	At Hospital or Sanatoria approved by the Ministry of Health ...	—	2	2
		At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	3	3
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	12	14	26
	Delicate children (e.g., pre- or latent Tuberculosis, Malnutrition, Debility, Anæmia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Open-Air Departments ...	156	102	258
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	391	142	533
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	41	52	93
	Active Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	14	10	24
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	7	6	13
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	18	23	41

TABLE III—continued.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Physically Defective.	Crippled children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), e.g., children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools..	8	5	13
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	1	—	1
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools	192	189	381
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	107	109	216

Table IV. Return of Defects Treated during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

Treatment Table.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin:—			
Ringworm—Scalp ...	38	64	102
Body ...	5	28	33
Scabies ...	4	25	29
Impetigo ...	5	80	85
Other Skin Disease ...	36	187	223
Minor Eye Defects (external and others) ...	48	355	403
Minor Ear Defects ...	93	292	385
Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	229	1031	1260

TABLE IV.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

Defect or Disease.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ...	1173	—	342	1515
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1173	—	342	1515

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed:—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 664

(b) Otherwise 342

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles:—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 517

(b) Otherwise 342

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				
RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT.			Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or in Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Total.		
211	5	216	325	541

TABLE IV.**GROUP IV.—Dental Defects.**

(1) Number of children who were:—

(a) Inspected by the Dentists:—

Routine Age Groups—

Age.	Number.
5	39
6	1421
7	3307
8	3294
9	2995
10	2688
11	3257
12	3205
13	2604
14	977
	<hr/> 23787
Specials	—
	<hr/>
Total	<hr/> 23787 <hr/>

(b) Notified to require treatment (any permanent teeth defective) ...

10594

(c) Actually treated (included as above) ...

2572

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination ...

567

(2) Half-days devoted to	{ Inspection ... 343 }	Total	953
	{ Treatment ... 610 }		
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment			3337
(4) Fillings	{ Permanent Teeth ... 2855 }	Total	2855
	{ Temporary Teeth ... — }		
(5) Extractions	{ Permanent Teeth ... 1078 }	Total	5069
	{ Temporary Teeth ... 3991 }		
(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions			1501
(7) Other operations	{ Permanent Teeth ... 102 }	Total	102
	{ Temporary Teeth ... — }		

GROUP V.—Uncleanliness and verminous conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses ...

1.6

(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses ...

65814

(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean ...

8624

(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority ...

—

(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 ...

—

(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws ...

—

B. SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Table I.—Return of Medical Inspections.

A. Routine Medical Inspection.

Number of Inspections at all ages:—

Boys	...	...	...	...	...	778
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	934
						<hr/>
Total Routine Inspections				...		1,712
						<hr/> <hr/>

B. Other Inspections.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of Special Inspections	...	11	25	36
Number of Re-examinations	...	131	198	329
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		142	223	365
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Table II. Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1925.

Defect or Disease.		ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Malnutrition	...	—	132	2	—
Uncleanliness	...	—	—	—	—
Skin	Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	—	—
	Body	1	—	—	—
	Scabies	1	—	—	—
	Impetigo	2	—	—	—
	Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	24	—	1	—
Eye	Blepharitis	25	—	—	—
	Conjunctivitis	—	—	—	—
	Keratitis	—	—	—	—
	Corneal Opacities	—	—	—	—
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	162	96	2	2
	Squint	4	—	—	—
Ear	Other Conditions	4	—	—	—
	Defective Hearing	7	—	—	—
	Otitis Media	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat	Other Ear Diseases	18	—	1	—
	Enlarged Tonsils only	155	22	5	3
	Adenoids only	—	3	1	—
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	6	12	—	—
	Other Conditions	63	14	1	—
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)		2	45	—	—
Defective Speech		17	2	1	—

TABLE II.—Continued.

Defect or Disease.		ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Teeth—Dental Diseases	..	89	621	6	6
Heart and Circulation	Heart disease Organic	31	—	—	—
	Functional	—	8	—	2
	Anæmia	25	10	5	—
Lungs	Bronchitis	5	18	—	—
	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	2	3	—	—
Tuber- culosis	Pulmonary :—				
	Definite	—	—	—	—
	Suspected	—	—	—	—
	Non-Pulmonary :—				
	Glands	—	—	—	—
	Spine	—	—	—	—
	Hip	—	—	—	—
	Other Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
	Skin	—	—	—	—
	Other forms	—	—	—	—
Nervous System	Epilepsy	—	—	—	—
	Chorea	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions	—	82	—	—
Deformities	Rickets	1	—	—	—
	Spinal Curvature	14	9	1	—
	Other forms	42	5	—	—
Other Diseases and Defects	..	23	2	2	—

B.—Number of Individual Children found at ROUTINE Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

GROUP.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		Percentage of children found to require treatment.
	Inspected.	Found to require Treatment.	
All ages :—			
Boys	778	112	14.4
Girls	934	182	19.4
Total	1,712	294	17.1
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**Table III. Return of Exceptional Children.**

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially Blind).	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	3	2	5
Deaf (including Deaf and Dumb and partially Deaf).	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	—	1	1
Epileptics	Suffering from severe Epilepsy	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics ..	1	—	1
	Suffering from Epilepsy which is not severe ...	At Public Elementary Schools	—	1	1
Physically Defective.	Non-infectious but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis	At Public Elementary Schools	—	1	1
	Delicate Children ...	At Public Elementary Schools	32	49	81
	Crippled Children ...	At Public Elementary Schools	9	22	31

Table IV. Return of Defects Treated during the year
ended 31st December, 1925

Treatment Table.

GROU. I.—MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin :—			
Ringworm—Scalp ...	—	—	—
Body ...	—	—	—
Scabies ...	—	—	—
Impetigo ...	—	1	1
Other Skin Disease ...	—	6	6
Minor Eye Defects (external and others) ...	—	9	9
Minor Ear Defects ...	—	4	4
Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	—	20	20

TABLE IV.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

Defect or Disease.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ...	61	1	2	64
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	61	1	2	64

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed:—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... 49

(b) Otherwise ... 3

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles:—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... 40

(b) Otherwise ... 3

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				
RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT.			Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or in Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Total.		
—	—	—	35	35

TABLE IV.

GROUP IV.—Dental Defects.

(1)	(b) Notified to require treatment (any permanent teeth defective)	...	...	...	—
	(c) Actually treated	...	...	...	19	
	(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination			...	—	
(3)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment			...	32	
(4)	Fillings	{ Permanent Teeth	...	21	Total	21
		{ Temporary Teeth	...	—		
(5)	Extractions	{ Permanent Teeth	..	43	Total	59
		{ Temporary Teeth	...	16		
(6)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions					22
(7)	Other Operations	{ Permanent Teeth	...	3	Total	3
		{ Temporary Teeth	...	—		

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(c) No. treated	55.	...
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